

FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue # 21- March 1999

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

In front of you is the first 1999 "FRS Newsletter", edition 21. I'd like to apologise for the fact that in the previous edition the letter spacing the intention was to include as much info as possible but that was at the expense of legibility. Some of our readers were criticising us for that and they were right! This time it must be to your liking. The following three 1999 editions will be published mid June, mid September and mid December. I am proud that a small publication like the FRS Newsletter still has some exclusive Caroline news included. We got that news just before going to the printers. Just in time. Have some fun!

FRS NEWSCORNER

FRS-Holland Activities

Since December we have been carrying out a few broadcasts. Luck was however not on our side! Following the test of a new Dec. 13th, the planned Dec. 26th X-Mas broadcast had to be cancelled because of technical problems with the tx. With the great help of some good friends, we managed to go on air a week later between 09.52-14.15 CET. Pps were aired on 6240 kHz and although the signal was not as good as during the test on the 13th, we were quite satisfied. All the October birthday mail was read out during the programmes. FRS! also participated in the Michael Ravinganous contest. During the period Dec. 18th-1999- Jan. 6th 1999 two 30 min. pps were aired a number of times via the tx of the SWRS in Southern Ireland. On Fri the 18th between 19.10-19.35 UTC FRS was received in Mansfield, Victoria, Australia. Frequency was 7590 kHz USB. The New Year started with a 34 hr broadcast on 6240 Sun Jan. 24th. Signal-quality on the continent was good, we were surprised that reception in the UK was rather disappointing. Although we strive for a good signal in all of Central and Western Europe, in all fairness I have to admit that the response from listeners in Great Britain is very disappointing nowadays and that reflects the situation. February 21st a 4+ hr broadcast should be aired but due to illness the transmission was cancelled. A new date was chosen: March 7th. Following tx modifications, all worked very well until the tx was finally tested in the late afternoon of Sat March 6th.... Once again technical difficulties which could not be solved in time implying that the FRS pps had to be cancelled for the second time. And that's not all... Sat March 13th the tx was repaired, was taken back to the location and was tested. At first all seemed very well, power was 130W and modulation was fine. But, after some 20 minutes the signal dropped from 130W to approx. 10W, the PA valve was red-hot. As the main engineer was not at the location and not able to repair the rig before or on Sunday, it was for the third time that the FRS! broadcast was cancelled. I guess that's the first time in almost 15 years FRS! history something like this happened! It's nobody's fault, people worked very hard and spent most of the Saturday to fix the job but in one way or another we were very unfortunate. With a little luck (:-) FRS! is on the air Sunday March 21st, one month after the postponed date! Pps are starting at 09.52 CET including FRS Magazine, Off Beat (60 min. extra long) with Mark Jones, 30 min. FRS Geo DX sections (SW in part 1, general news in part 2) and loop trap Zee's Short SW Parade. If not on the 21st, it will be aired on the 26th. During this final year of the millennium this Newsletter will be published mid June, mid September and mid December.

FRS-Holland Future Activities

If circumstances allow, FRS-Holland will be carrying out a few times in the upcoming months. We are intending to carry out a 41 mb test which will be announced on 48 mb so that listeners are aware of us being on 41. Possible frequencies are 7340, 7360, 7425 and 7490. If you are on the internet, we will warn you ahead. If not, scan the 48 mb for FRS activities in May or June. Possible frequencies are 6200, 6207, 6210 or 6240.

New Jingles

A few weeks ago we received an MD full of brandnew liners. In the mean time loop trap Zee mixed some of them. The complete package is not yet ready and our millennium test is! Some of the results are to be heard in Peter Verburg's FRS Magazine on Sun March 21st-28th. He's the only one recording his shows after Feb. 21st while the other shows were already recorded before the 21st! The MPEG3 format we use on our website. For those we can't, don't be disappointed, we will produce a FRS single CD later this year. The complete new package will be introduced during our 3rd Sun broadcast in April or May.

Important

Due to circumstances the peterv@transom@ip.nl e-mail address will be changed. The database with who's e-mail addresses are stored in our address book will be automatically informed. The new e-mail will also be announced in upcoming broadcasts and in the June edition of this Newsletter. Remember you can contact us via: frs@transom.com > Website: <http://listen.to/frs> >

THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE

In this "first" edition we cover the news from the period mid December 1998-mid March 1999. It seems already ages ago: the X-Mas Holiday Season 1998. During this period conditions over were fairly good in contrast with for instance 1996 when propagation was appalling. Some statistics: Sun Dec. 26th saw almost a total of 50 different stations on the SW free radio bands, this number includes some 10 stations which were relayed via the SWRS in Southern Europe. As the SWRS is an unofficial operation, it's logical we have included them. X-Mas Eve we counted some 17 stations on 76, 51 & 48 metres. And then came X-Mas Day: no less than 55 stations (!) on 76, 51, 48, 41 & 25 metres. Boxing Day produced more or less the same numbers. No doubt it may be concluded that these numbers are absolute records in the history of SW free radio. Sun Dec. 27th completed three days in a row of SW free radio DX-ing with almost 50 stations on air. New Year's Eve the number dropped to approx. 12 stations, in the past there have never been a great number of stations on air on the last day of the year. It seems most station OPs have other business to do! On Jan. 1st, New Year's Day 25 stations were heard and that was 50% of what was on air X-Mas Day. Last but not least we make mention of the first 1999 Sunday when just over 30 stations were relaying the spirit of free radio and go't over Europe. Figures are interesting but not satisfying, most important is that both station OPs and listeners have enjoyed this massive radio-activity. It would go too far to mention all stations which have been on air during those two weeks, what we do try to summarize the most remarkable facts and loggings.

RADIO BLUE STAR was heard on 6910 during various occasions over the X-Mas Season. This less is giving excellent results both on short and long distance. On 76 metres 3908 was often used. During both X-Mas days it was mentioned that pps were also receivable via the internet. The e-mail add is bluestar@planet.nl. Add is Box 1104 in 8001 BC Zwolle.

RADIO BRIGITTE tested on 6907 Sun January 3rd. X-Mas day saw the station on 6478 and 6340 kHz. Add is Box 10 in 7594 ZG Rurew.

CITY FM (!) from Germany not to be confused with another German station calling itself Radio City is using the Ylerby address. Early 1998 both stations used the Wuppertal address and confusion was the logical result. For that reason City FM moved to Sweden. By the way: Radio City was heard on 7355U & 7460U Sun January 3rd. We have no idea how signal-quality was. German **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** was active via own equipment on 76 & 48 metres. Numerous pps were used over the X-Mas Holiday Season. In addition the station's pps were aired through the SWRS facilities. E-mail is sw-crazywave@planet.nl. Another work Radio Rotherw: CWR is now using an add which is Box 5, E100 AA Raalte. BNL was heard during numerous occasions on 7480 with good results.

DAYTONA RADIO was heard on 6965 Sun Dec. 26th. Add see Radio Blue Star.

New Year's Eve **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** & the **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** were heard for the 10th time with their traditional joint broadcast and this time no less than 800W of power were radiated to all corners of Europe. To avoid QRM and interference, the broadcast took place within the 41 mb on 7480 kHz. Signal and modulation quality was excellent. The broadcast started already at 07.15 UTC and lasted almost 9 hours. Add is Box 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen. For more details about the two stations and a nice photo of the tx go to: www.listen.to/eastcoast/holland/

The Dutch **FARKERS** were heard Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 31st. Part of the pps were also relayed to easily on FM. E-mail: info@flytofarmers.nl. Smailbox: Box 105 in 7200 AC Dalfen.

RADIO FREE LONDON was heard Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, 29th, 31st and Jan 1st, 2nd and 3rd on 5805. Throughout the week 3920 kHz was also providing a 2 hour loop of RFL pps. Every day's RFL pps were put on the air during 24 hours. The station's signals varied between fair and good, in the greater London area 819 kHz in the medium wave was also on. E-mail: rlw@usa.net.

FREESTYLE RADIO celebrated its 2nd anniversary on the 20th of December with a broadcast on 6237. The station is using the Ylerby address (10). Dec. 25th Scandinavian **RADIO FUSION** was heard on 6206 with a 60 minute broadcast. Signal-quality was fair to good in Western Europe. Address is Box 4380 in 20230 Malmö in Sweden. One of the rare catches was a Dutch station named **LASERNET**. Dec. 25th the station was picked up on 6261 putting out X-Mas music taken from US Satellite radio stations. Add is Box 40183 in 6354 AD Nijmegen. E-mail: lasernet@usa.net.

X-Mas Day **RADIO MIAMIGO** from the Netherlands was heard on 6235 & 5815 kHz putting out a varied selection of offshore cutting and more on the air during 24 hours. The station produced both excellent signals and programs. Both freqs were cut running simultaneously. Both excellent signals and programs. And if that was not enough, New Year's Eve Nordsee was all day on 6245, during most (all?) of the broadcast 3935 was running in parallel.

RADIO OZONE & **BIMES** have been testing on a number of out-of-band freqs. Dec. 27th saw BIMS on 7525 kHz with German deputy Bobby Spies. Sat Jan. 15th a test to the USA was conducted on 6880 23.50-31.00 UTC and

on the 16th en 5770 07.30-08.30 UTC. Address: see January-March report!
RADIO PLASMA is a new German station making its debut Sun Dec. 20th via the ENL to 140.8 kHz on 41 metres. Signal-quality was fine.
 Address: (1).

SANTA CLAUS OVERDRIVE is one of the few typical X-Mas Season station popping up every year, the station was putting out X-Mas comedy on 6255 X-Mas Day. Boxing Day 6240 was used.

Remember Scottish **RADIO STELLA** from years gone by? The OP Jack Wilken visited WMR's Jack Russell and a live broadcast was aired on 3944 in the night of Sat. Jan. 2nd to Sun. 3rd. Jan. 2nd saw Jack Wilken once again on air via WMR, this time on 7446 kHz. It looks like he has acquired a taste for broadcasting on SW. E-mail: WMR is <wmr@clm.net>.

SUPERCLAN RADIO returned on SW following a long absence and was heard with a true alternative programming on 6240 X-Mas Day. As the modulation wasn't loud enough, the station suffered from Nordsee interference although both stations were separated 3 kHz. Boxing Day part of the prog was repeated, once again on 6240. Response on the prog was rather low! Add in Box 343 on 6900 AH Zevmar.

USA RECEPTION. Several Euro-pirates have been received in the USA in December: the 'bucky ones' are Blue Star, the SWRS, Farmers from Holland, Radio Al, Int., RFL and Spaceman Radio.

RADIO ZODIAC (1) from the UK was heard on 6190 Dec. 20th. A good signal was noted in the UK. Rumours are circulating that Zodiac will cease broadcasting on SW.

- 1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
- 2 = 14 Stone Row / COLERAINE / Co. Londonderry / BT62 1EP / Northern Ireland
- 4 = P.O.Box 130 / 82804 RUEIL Cedex / France
- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd / PRESTON / Lancs PR2 6AS / England
- 7 = P.O.Box 386 / 8900 AJ VENLO / the Netherlands
- 8 = Box 283 / Merlin / Ontario N0P 1W0 Canada
- 10 = SR5 / Ostra Porten 28 / 442 54 YTTBYRBY / Sweden

RADIO AL INTERNATIONAL can be heard with almost weekly Sun morning runs around 6270 and sometimes switching to 6207 kHz. Sat & Sun Jan. 21st/24th the station was noted with strong signals on 6270. Sat Feb. 14th at 08.00 UTC 6290 was in use and later that morning the station was back on 6270. In the mean time a new modulator is in operation. Problems with that same modulator forced Radio Al, Int. to leave the airwaves on Sun Feb. 21st. After fixing the job, Radio Al, Int. returned on 6207 'cause 6270 was occupied. For photos, information and links refer to the station's website: <www.lit.to/adinternational>. E-mail: <adinternational@planet.nl>. Address is shared with Euroclan, VOTN & RECH: POBox 663, 7500 AR Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

RADIO BANDONICA has followed the example of fellow broadcasters Radio Al, Int., RECH and VOTN and has now opened up its very own homepage: <www.lit.to/bandonica>. Sat Jan. 23rd & Sun Feb. 14th Bandonica was heard on 6275 with strong signals. Add see Radio Al, Int.

BENES was heard via the Ozone 10 on 5770 kHz on Sunday January 17th 1999. 15th saw the station on 3762 and 6191. Add see Ozone Radio.

RADIO BELCANTO is a new Dutch station which was heard on 6262 on Sun March 7th. The address is: P.O.Box 21, NL-7010 AA Gaanderen. Dutch **RADIO BLACK POWER** was heard on 4240 at 10.40 UTC on Sun Feb. 21st. A strong signal was noted. Interesting to know is 4240 is within the 70 m, a frequency not yet used by any European pirates.

RADIO BLUE STAR is now days one of the most active and loudest stations on the SW for radio bands. Jan. 17th saw Blue Star on 6190. January 31st 11440 was in use. Jan 24th Blue Star tested with no less than 800W using a quad type of antenna. Future time could see a power exceeding 1 kW! Address & E-mail: see X-Mas section.

RADIO BORDERHUNTER was heard on 7480 Sun Jan. 31st. Signal-strength was good. Last year the station operated under the name Guernsey but since January the original name is back in use. Sun Feb. 28th saw Borderhunter testing on 7490, modulation was not 100%. March 14th 7363 was used but also during this broadcast the mod left much to be desired. The station's address seems to have changed into P.O. Box 44, D-2387 Baarle-Hertog, Belgium. We are not sure whether (5) remains open.

RADIO BORN FREE was heard testing on 6275 in the late afternoon of Sat Feb. 27th. Signal was rather poor. The following day a much better signal was heard on the same frequency.

RADIO BRIGITE was heard on 6477 Sun Jan. 24th. Jan. 31st 6908 was in use and Feb. 7th 6906. Sun March 14th Brigitte was noted on 6307, 6350 & 6907! Add: see X-Mas section.

RADIO COMMUNICATION (1) was heard testing its (new?) tx on 6240U and 6282 Sat Feb. 27th. One day later the station was noted on 6269.

Instead of analogue digital news from **RADIO EAST COAST IRLAND**. The website has been updated recently. Just see for yourself: <www.lit.to/eastcoastonline>. A more easy-to-use E-mail address is now valid: <eastcoast@landline.com>. Sat Jan. 23rd saw RECH on 6270 with a fine signal and Sat Feb. 20th 6290 was briefly used. A VFO-controlled 100W tx is being used. Add see Radio Al, Int.

EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO was heard during a number of occasions in

the past few weeks. Sun Jan. 31st the station tested on 6210 kHz making preparations for Feb. 14th when a 3 hour broadcast was aired on 6200. Apart from the EMR Int. Service, a very interesting Radio Jackie Story was aired. This is the type of programming making it really worth while to listen to SW free radio! Just for your info: Radio Jackie used to be a very famous London medium wave pirate broadcasting between March 1969 and Feb. 1985. March 1999 will see the 30th anniversary of Jackie and EMR's Barry Stephens producing a 16 part Radio Jackie documentary Part 1 was aired Sun December 13th when EMR was on 6210 and Feb. 14th saw a repeat. Part 2 will be included in the upcoming EMR broadcast late March, that will be the 22nd or 29th. Each part will cover one year of Radio Jackie's life featuring studio but also rare off air recordings and giving valuable background info. If you are interested in getting info about the London landscape plants in the late 60s, 70s and early 80s, then visit: <http://193.63.162.180/ucx>. Absolutely interesting! Back to the 14th of February: according to reliable sources the EMR signal in the UK was seriously jammed by another station. On the continent EMR's output was not badly affected justifying the conclusion the jamming station came from British soil... As a result it was decided to repeat the complete programming on Sun Feb. 21st except the Radio Jackie Story. Thus time EMR had more luck. No sign of any interference and on top of that conditions were better than the week before. Signal-strength was absolutely excellent, modulation could have been a bit stronger. In the mean time a new set of jingles have been completed to be introduced during the upcoming broadcast in March. February 7th saw EMR testing on 7517 & 7450 in the 41 MB. More 41 mb tests at an irregular basis will be taking place in the near future. Sun March 7th EMR was heard testing on 6185 kHz. Looking back to December 1998: E.M.R. was fairly successful with its Dec. 15th broadcast on 6200. Add in Box 227, 6040 ZG Hertex.

RADIO FLUX seems to have settled down on 6300, at least for the time being. The station was heard various times on that freq with good results. February 7th Flux was not heard on 6300 but instead on 6900 AM putting out Dutch music. Reason: an overcrowded 48 mb. Signal-quality was fair. In the mean time a new address is in use: P.O.Box 33, 4158 ZG Deil. E-mail: <flux@planet.nl>.

RADIO FREE LONDON was heard on 5805 with fair signal-strength. Sun Jan. 24th, Evermore the station hasn't been noted on their fixed 5805 frequency. Usually the station broadcasts on every 1st & 3rd Sun of the month. Address in 101B Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 9LP in the UK. Latest press: Sunday March 14th RFL was heard with fair good signal-strength on 5805! Activities on 5805 will continue, as from: Euroclan services a new 530 Wm tx will become operational. Future plans include the use of new freq ranges. We are curious...

FRESH AIR RADIO was heard on 6290 kHz Jan. 31st via the facilities of Radio Orion. As far as we know the station is connected to Radio Orion relayed through Fresh Air also on New Year's Day. Add in P.O.Box 53, Billstone, Weymouth VT W14 618.

A new Dutch station was heard on Sunday January 31st: **RADIO GALAXY**. For almost two hours a musical show was aired on 6256 and signal-strength was satisfactory. As the station didn't use a limiter-compressor, the mod seemed to be a bit on the low side. The station is not operated by Superhiss! Herbie the Fish but there is some sort of connection. A 50W transmitter is in use, the address is POBox 343, 6900 AH Zevmar, the Netherlands. The aerial is being prepared for transmitting within 76, 48 & 41 metres. Future plans are unknown for the time being. We'll keep you informed if there are any developments.

INTERNET: If you want to hear pirate and other stations via web software Radio, then visit: <www.javaredio.com>. The famous Wuppertal one is now also on the Internet with a new website: <home.vtd.de/wupradio/>.

Jan. 22nd, 23rd and 24th saw another massive on air attack of **LEVEL 41**. (1) Activities started Fri evening on 76 metres 3905 with broadcasts from CWR, ENL, Spaceman and Torenwall. On Saturday during daytime 6245 was being used by Laguna Speeding, Rising Star, Torenwall, CWR & Benches. In the evening hours 3905 was again occupied by a few stations. Sunday Jan. 24th all times took place on 6260 kHz. The fact that each day all broadcasts were carried out on the same frequency certainly is a plus! During the Sun morning a fake station calling itself Level 24 was heard on 6260. Obviously this was not the friendly kind of prog station, the attitude was rather hostile during loud and clear: its opinion, it seems the Level 48 crew know the identity of Level 24 people. Some 50 letters were received for the January marathon. Sat March 13th & Sun March 14th Level was heard on 6233 and 3910 resp. Power was approx. 120W.

RADIO LITTLE STAR seems to be a new German station making its debut on 6210 kHz Jan. 24th. 24th & 26th later 6240 was in use with a fair signal. Add via Free Radio Info: POBox, 520112, D-44207 Dortmund in Germany. By the way: all stations connected to FR Info in Dortmund can now be reached by E-mail via the FR E-mail address: <frinfo@planet.nl>.

RADIO MARABU continues via a true alternative music format mostly to be heard on 6210 kHz. Sun Feb. 14th and Sat Feb. 20th Marabu was active on 6210, this time luckily without any interference. In January Marabu's 6210 was almost completely nullified out by a station (?) which obviously did not check 6210 before coming on air. Address is POBox 1166, D-49187 Bielefeld in Germany. E-mail: <radio@marabu@online.de>. Some latest news: Marabu is planning to celebrate 15 years of alternative prog. The 24 hour relay together with Radio Titanic Int. was postponed by a week because the tapes didn't arrive in time at the location. When you read this, these pos will possibly have been used!

A new station on Shortwave is testing on 11390 kHz: Sundays only 0700-1015 UTC, called **RADIO MARCONI** playing old records of Radio Marconi International. The owner is located in South Italy. According to the OP, the tx



output at approx. 100 W. At present there's no address. San Febr. 28th Morconi was noted on 11390 kHz with a fair signal in Walsingham. Email: <grain@bluewin.ch>. Address: C/o Via Europa 1, IT-74100 Taranto (Ta).
SAN MARCH 0th at approx. 11.20 UTC a **6 kHz RADIO NETHERLANDS** **SHORT SERVICE**, was logged on 6290. Non-stop Beatles records and announcements in Dutch and English were made. At least some people thought this was indeed RNW! Not to wonder, the announcements were sounding professional, fooling some listeners. As far as we may conclude the Farmers record part of that fake broadcast and rebroadcast it on the 14th on 6284 kHz. That resulted in people sending VLF to RNW's headquarters in Hilversum. Media Network reported that pirates were responsible. For this practical joke and that any reports could not be confirmed. For genuine reports write to: RNW at POBox 222, 1200 JG in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL can still be found on top of the 49 mb but from time to time the station slightly alters frequency. The station used to be on 6199 in November/December 1998 and since January Ozone moved downwards to 6196 and even 6190. The reason for doing so could be avoiding Dutch powerhouses frequently using 6290. San Jan. 31st Ozone carried out an antenna test on 6195. That same day a test took place on 7450 in the 41 mb. Result was a poor/fair signal on the continent. Due to problems with the modulation, Ozone was forced to leave the airwaves. Another interesting test was conducted on San Febr. 14th when 4790 within the 62 mb was being used after 21.00 UTC testing propagation characteristics on this relatively low frequency. The test was repeated on Feb. 21st and the 28th in the early evening hours. Reports for future tests on 41 metres and other bands are highly appreciated and can be sent to: 55D Chester Road, London N19-5DF England.
San January 31st UK-based RADIO PANDORA (10) tested on 7340 and 7495. 7340 is in the middle of the 41 mb but during most of the Sun morning this freq is free to use without any co-channel interference from legal powered hoppers. It's amazing that apart from Pandora (and EMR) up till now not one single station has tried out the part of the 41 mb! (And the results of the tests were not sensational, at least not on the continent, on both freq. fair signals were received. In the UK 7340 was received loud & clear. San Febr. 21st saw Pandora on 5773 with only 10W of power and one weak hour 7399 was tried out. The latter channel was also used on March 1st.
Q1016 was heard with rare results on San Jan. 17th. Freq was 6960Hz.
STATION SIERRA SIERRA (10) tested on 3905 kHz San Jan. 30th. Don't confuse this one with English Subterranean Sounds! Sierra Sierra announced an Email add: <gs@sierra.com>

SWRS reports that they have built a new vertical omnidirectional aerial working within the approx. range of 5700-7700 kHz. This new aerial is being tested with a low powered transmitter of around 50 W USB. The station is eagerly awaiting any reports via: <swrs@sierra.com>.
RADIO SPACEMAN from the Netherlands can be regularly heard with mostly brief tests on Sun morning, using various freqs. San Jan. 17th Spaceman was active on 6245 and 6260. San Febr. 21st Spaceman was on 6284 and during a brief period Spaceman and the Farmers were causing mutual interference. Spaceman was certainly not wiped out by the Farmers clearly indicating the use of a high-powered DUT!

Swedish **SRS-NEWS** hopes to celebrate its 5th anniversary with a special 30-min. pk being broadcast sometime in May. In those 5 years SRS has developed into a major and reliable SW free radio news service.

STAR CLUB RADIO's Boy Clark was fined 3000 DM in court on Tuesday March 2nd. Another fine and magistrate costs make a total of no less than something between 6000 and 7000 DM. Good luck Roy!

Following a break **STARSHINE RADIO** (1) returned on SW on 6240 & 6250 San Febr. 28th. A 30 min. live show and an old tape were aired.
German RADIO Dr. TIM (1) was heard on 6225 and 6260 kHz San Febr. 7th. Both signals were fair although mod on 6225 sounded a bit lewish. A week later 6237 and 6242 were in use.

Dutch RADIO TORENVALK has been very active in the New Year. Torenvalk was observed on San Jan 31st on 6269, San Febr. 24th 6270 and 6300. San Febr. 14th 6299 and San Febr. 21st 6240 & 6270. San Febr. 7th a PLL controlled rig was tested, but that caused an annoying humming on the carrier. As a result, Torenvalk is now back with X-tal controlled equipment on 6299. Generally speaking the station puts out an excellent signal, the same applies for the modulation. It's worth while obtaining a quality CQSL-card from Torenvalk (93 is available now), drop OZ Haps a line at P.O. Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeeland, The Netherlands.

RADIO TOTY has no connections whatsoever with the famous American airplane 10to but simply is the new name for Radio New World Int., the joint venture of Radio Torenvalk and Radio TOnair broadcasting in February on 48 and 31 metres 9241 kHz.

TRANSATLANTIC RADIO provided a fair signal on 5795 San Jan. 17th. San Febr. 14th at 18.30 UTC a test on 3894 was carried out. Result was a fair to good signal. Add in POBox 4427 in 3006 AK Rotterdam. Website: <home.wa.nl/~trans/>. Email: <trans@wa.nl>

EUROPEAN RADIO seems to have settled down in the lower part of the 48 mb, the station now often uses 6210. That was the case on San Jan. 17th, 31st and Febr. 7th & 21st when the usual strong and well-modulated signals were noted. The station's output consists of a mix of Int. and Dutch language programs. Sporadically Union Radio can be heard on 3.9 MHz. San Jan. 24th for instance 1919 was in use. The show on the 7th Febr. was lasted almost 7 hours till 16.30 UTC. Add in POBox 669 in 7000 Hoogeveen.

VOEGELREIS RADIO - UPDATE 38 is now available. This 12 page magazine is all about Germany's shortwave pirate radio scene. Including a review of 1998 activities as well as features on Radio Anzamo, Flamingo and E.T. Radio 94.8 from Berlin. Plus a story on the Dunsbury free radio gettoget-

ther. In the German language only. For a copy send 1 IRC, DM 2.20 in German stamps or 1 US dollar to: Björn Quack, P.O. Box 103113, 44031 Dortmund, Germany. Remark: the 1995-1997 updates aren't obtainable anymore.

"Vogelreis Radio", the book, is available for only DM 15.00.
VOYN/RECH carried out a joint early morning North America test on San Jan. 31st. Saturday evening Jan. 30th the big tx was briefly switched on making sure all worked properly. The test was conducted on 6912 and the result was 1 letter from the other side of the pond. And that proves that high power is no guarantee for a high number of letters, there are more factors influencing the overall result. Sat Febr. 27th VOYN was heard with 100W using a Rohde & Schwarz SK2010 transmitter. Add: see Radio Al Int. Latest news: on San March 21st a joint 41 mb broadcast took place in the morning hours. Power: approx. 800W!

RADIO WAVES INT. (4) remains active on 11401 from time to time. San Jan. 25th the station was heard on 76 metres.

Scottish WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO continues with regular 7446 kHz broadcasts. WMR puts out a format of rock music and fact is that the output power is not the 300W which were used a few years ago. Signal strength on the continent is mostly fair. Email: <weir@usa.net>

RADIO WEST was heard with Ozone Radio Sat Jan. 9th. San Jan. 10th 08.00 UTC 6196 and 5790 15.30 UTC. Address: 1 Box 16, 7700 Mosman in Belgium.

News from Belgian X-TREME RADIO the station intended to test a new 53W rig at the end of 1998 but as far as we know nothing was heard on 6400, the freq which the station was willing to occupy. There is a new updated webpage at: <wwwsites.com/dremradio/>. New Email address: <str@xtremradio.net>. New tests from Belgian sat will soon take place, the first one is scheduled for March. The previous test was unexpectedly interrupted because of an unexpected police activity. The station crew suspects somebody to have been calling the police after seeing the X-Treme crew installing the antenna. Hopefully the station is more successful now!

If you are interested in the latest **RADIO SIO INT** programme schedule, then take a look at: <www.news.com/NEXUS-164/Schedule/sat.htm> Info seems to be very accurate!

YTERBY - ADDRESS (10): two stations have joined the other Ytterby ones, namely Radio Mirage and RTN.

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

Radio Caroline

For Radio Caroline the sudden closure was very sad simply because the station was quickly building up a large audience of enthusiastic listeners in Great Britain but also on the continent of Europe. Since October 1996, Caroline was to be heard with a weekly Sunday programming between 11.00-19.00. The presenters like Nick Harris, Johnny Lewis, David Foster and Steve Conway made listening to the station very enjoyable. During the shows that Sunday it was frequently mentioned that Caroline would be soon looking for alternatives on satellite. In the mean time Peter Moore has formed a rescue team consisting of the aforementioned presenting team and Andrew Austin who's specialized in selling commercial airtime. He's looking for new sponsors. That was the situation early January. Add then came the good news mid February ... A newsflash was received with the following content:

Caroline broadcasts will commence on the Astra 1C satellite from 9.00 UTC on Saturday 20th February. The station will carry out live tests until 11.00am when programmes will start, hosted by Nigel Harris who started his radio career with Caroline in the mid seventies. During the day other Caroline regulars Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Dave Foster, Mark Stafford and others will be heard. Programmes on the first day will terminate at 21.00 UTC but will recommence at 09.00 on Sunday for another twelve hour slot. This will be the pattern for future weekends although it is hoped that transmission times will be increased later into 1999. Caroline is breaking spare air time to other interested parties. The American religious agency Pan American Broadcasting who placed blocks of programmes with the station in the eighties have again become involved and the profit derived from managing their broadcasts will be shared back with the station. The station is also planning to launch a new programme, the station's last experiment with satellite radio ended on Jan. 3rd 1999 when European Klassik Rock from whom Caroline was renting air time suddenly closed down. E.K.R. was one of many satellite stations to launch this decade only to get into terminal financial difficulties. However, Peter Moore boss of Caroline made the following press statement about the new venture: "We have no illusions. Many others have tried and failed to recreate a satellite service. The difference here is that we have the charismatic Caroline name and the fund of goodwill that this creates. Our station has a thirty five year history of surviving when others cannot and we have been trained by long experience to carry out our activities in a cost effective way. We are not carrying huge overheads or expecting massive returns at this stage. Proceeding with caution we have booked and pre-paid for only the air time that we can afford, but we are adequately supported by advertisers and donations from Caroline enthusiasts and indeed their payments have funded this whole project without having to seek any outside finance. Therefore we are confident and do not foresee any insurmountable future problems." Caroline will be on the Astra 1C satellite. Channel 35 corresponding with 101.994 GHz using the audio subcarriers 7.38 & 7.56 MHz. In future weeks it is expected that the station will also be relayed on various terrestrial frequencies around Europe. Potential advertisers or new supporters are invited to contact us by Email or at the station office at 426, Archway Road, Highgate, N4 3JH. The project is in time for Carlsberg to buy all the trademarks and a 24 hour per day Radio Caroline service will resume. Terrestrial transmitters are expected to

begin relaying programs soon. One example is a Berlin station relaying Caroline's output on FM. Other satellite transmitters around the world may well be adopted as the project continues. Programmes originate from the Mainstage EKR station where Caroline equipment has been installed. At present time the Ross Revenge is committed to shows and festivals. It may give a tag of nostalgia... but 'The Old Lady' is not dead yet! It will perhaps not please some Caroline supporters that the station is moving to satellite for distribution. However in 2013's approaching the magic year 2006, this is the right logical, if not anti-social, step Radio Caroline. <www.radio-caroline.co.uk> By the way: Radio Caroline received numerous telephone calls proving the station's current output is highly appreciated by listeners all over Europe!

Latest News

Music programmed! New Jingles

At this moment one of the Caroline jocks is in charge of music programming. In fact he's the very first person to ever totally program the music on the station. In the past there have been music clocks and boxes of Current songs to play from; but of course there never was a sophisticated programming package. A MiniDisc library is being built and the responsible person is around 60% there at present. People behind the station want to bring Caroline into the 90s by tightening up the format. Most of the previous RSAs had been a mess as far as music went. So, almost every song on the weekend is programmed now. There is a bit of freedom of course and presenters can play around with a couple of songs an hour and also play requests. Listeners may also have noticed the new jingle mixes and promos. These are the work of Mark Stafford. Caroline has over 50 new jingles and promos.

Future Plans

In contrast with previous satellite radio adventures, the Caroline future looks promising. Listener's response is very good, every week new advertisers show interest and Caroline has confirmed that they will be going past the original three month period. All kind of plans are developed to secure the future of the station on satellite.

Exclusive News

FRS Newsletter proudly presents a couple of bits of exclusive news for you. Firstly, at Easter Caroline will be running from Good Friday right through to Easter Monday so they can do the Top 500. Secondly, Johnny Walker will be doing something for the station in a few weeks time. But not at Easter. Caroline will be extending to 10pm any week now!!

The latest schedule is:

Saturday: 9-12 Nigel Harris, 12-2 Johnny Lewis, 2-5 David Foster, 5-7 Guest Spot, 7-9 Steve Conway.
Sunday: 9-12 Johnny Lewis, 12-2 Steve Conway, 2-4 Nigel Harris, 4-6 David Foster, 6-9 Mark Stafford

As a surprise the news reached us (via TTS-Mediaspace's Tom Collins) that former Laser 558 DJer/Caroline Wolf, also known as The Sea Wolf, returns to his musical roots with a special broadcast on Radio Caroline. Wolf will shake-up the airwaves and may put a satellite or two out of alignment when he does a special show on Radio Caroline on Saturday, March 27th from 5 PM to 7 PM (UK time). TTS-Mediaspace asked 'The Sea Wolf' himself what was in prospect for the evening. "Don't ask me what I have planned - it will be just like the old days on Laser. I never knew how things would start, worse than that, I never knew how a show or line would end. Let's just say the music will be cooked and we'll have a lot of fun." When asked about any link-ups with Chipping Sodbury Sound, Charlie replied, "Well I know the place a lot better now after working for GWR-FM in Bristol, so I guess the spirit of THE MOD-SOD SOUND will live on." Replying to the question "How do you feel about broadcasting on the world's most famous radio station Radio Caroline?" Charlie answers:

"Well, it won't be a first, we used to visit the Ross Revenge on occasions and I do remember doing a link or two, however this will be my first full show on Caroline. I only hope I can live up to the reputations of people like my old mate, Johnny Walker [then maybe I can fill in for him on Radio Two] not too mention the likes of The Admiral Robbo. Dave and the rest of the crews from the 70s and 80s I believe my old friend, Johnny Lewis will keep my on an even keel. I may let him join in on a few Pich or so..."

Q: You know how a press card to work in this country, what is your perception on British Radio today?

A: It has come a long way, a lot of what we did on Laser - and later on ATLANTIC 252 has found its way on to the airwaves, but radio is very cyclic and at times I think we are back in 1984 [when Wolf first joined Laser] and the industry needs to return somewhat to its roots. We need to care more about our listeners and never forget that radio is there to entertain and touch people's lives.

I am now a UK resident, and I hope I haven't heard the last of this. I think it is time to shake things up a little and I'm just the man to do it. I still have a great belief in British radio and that's what keeps me here

Q: A lot of Americans become famous on Laser 558, are you still in touch with the old crew?

A: There were others besides me? [Laughs] I do talk to Tommy [what a name!] Rivers about every other week and with Laser manager, JOHN CALTELL. They are both still in England. I actually spoke to Lat West for the first time in years and we now communicate by e-mail. I did keep in touch with David Lee Stone before his tragic death. The rest, have been out of touch, but if they see this, they now know where to find me [charlie@mediaspace.co.uk] or visit the TTS-Mediaspace web site [www.mediaspace.co.uk] and click on my name on the index.

Q: Charlie, will we hear the Lasercettes again?

A: Don't know... I think they are probably all more interested in changing nappies or something these days and trying to forget.

World's last offshore pirate legalized

The world's last remaining offshore pirate radio station, Arutz-7, has been legalized by the Israeli government, bringing to an end a 51 year history of such ship-based stations in the North Sea and Mediterranean. Here is how Arutz-7 themselves reported on the day's events, Wednesday February 24th 1999:

"Arutz-7 is now a licensed radio station! The Knesset voted 40-30 today to grant immediate recognition to any station that has been in continuous operation for the past five years. A radio station associated with the Shas party is also included in the bill. Attorney-General Eyalut Rubinstein exerted heavy pressure against the bill throughout the day, claiming that he will have 'difficulty defending it if and when the Supreme Court is asked to rule on it.'"

In fact, opposition MKs submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court against the legality of the new law less than two hours after the vote. Station executives say that they have received numerous legal opinions affirming that there is no legal basis for disputing the proposed bill. They claim that political, not legal, motivations are behind the objections of the State Attorney's office.

Yaakov Katz (Katzah), Executive Director of Arutz-7, said that the station is making preparations to implement the decision. "We are still checking all the details," he said, adding that he wished to thank Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Mordechai Eliyahu, and Avraham Shapira, as well as a long list of Knesset Members and others whose support helped bring about the passage of the bill.

So, what happens now?

First of all, the boat isn't going anywhere - for the time being. Immediately after the vote yesterday, left wing Knesset members applied to the Israeli High Court of Justice appealing the Knesset decision. What does the vote mean? It means that ANY station that has been broadcasting NATIONALLY for the past five years automatically gets a license. Stations included in this 'agreement' are: Arutz Sheva (Arutz-7), Arutz 2000 (the former offshore station - whose boat is still anchored off the coast of Tel-Aviv), Kol Hanahana (Voice of the Sole), Kol Haamot (Voice of the Truth), Radio 10. The last four stations being Ultra-orthodox/LANDBASED stations.

We cannot think of any country giving landbased pirate stations a license (at least without contending in a tender with other stations), but this is what has happened in Israel. Arutz 2000 staff couldn't believe their luck. They were over the moon being included in the 'Five year agreement'. It means that instead of broadcasting from secret locations they can now broadcast quite openly, and there is nothing anyone can do about it. As for control, and content of their broadcasts, this has to be worked out, but at the moment they are broadcasting as normal - legally now, but without any official body looking over them. In the agreement, three new national stations will be formed: Arutz Sheva, a left leaning station (Radio Gal 7), and an ultra-orthodox station (report from Mike Brand).

Voice of Peace returns to the airwaves?

The decision of the Israeli Knesset to allow the right-wing offshore station Arutz-7 to operate legally is already having repercussions for the broadcasting scene in the country and region. In a dramatic development, the legendary offshore station The Voice of Peace says it plans to return to the air off the coast of Israel. A press release from the VOP says that a new ship will leave harbor on Saturday 20th March 1999 and anchor in the same location as the original station. This news comes as Israel prepares to elect the 15th Knesset in May. The original Voice of Peace began regular transmissions in May 1973. Owned by former air force pilot turned peace campaigner Abe Nathan, it quickly became the most popular radio station amongst young people in the region. Israeli and Jewish people worked for the station over the years, mostly on short term contracts. This included not only the hopefuls for whom the Voice of Peace was their big break in radio, but also established presenters who were either between jobs or who had decided to have a working holiday from their regular jobs on dry land. Unlike most offshore broadcasting ventures, the Voice of Peace was not intended purely to entertain. The concept of the station was to build bridges between young Israelis and Arabs. Nathan frequently broadcast personal Peace messages live over the station, with which he was in constant contact over a ship to shore link. In 1997, in recognition of his efforts, he received the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award. The station closed on October 1st 1993. Nathan was having financial problems, and the signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and the PLO provided him with an opportune moment to bring the project to a close while being able to claim that the station had fulfilled its objective. Two months later, the ship was sunk 15 miles off the Israeli coast. In early March 1999 The Voice of Peace issued the following press release:

"The New Voice of Peace announces that on Saturday 20th March our broadcasts will restart. In addition to normal radio broadcasts, you can also listen to The New Voice of Peace on the Internet at the following sites: <www.thewoofpeace.co.il> <www.thewoofpeace.co.uk> <www.thewoofpeace.co.id>."

It will our mission to sail on the 'New Peace Ship' from Jaffa Harbor on Saturday 20th March at 17.00, and position ourselves off the Israeli coast. Our broadcasts will be received in all parts of Israel and also in 'New Palestine', and in the Middle Eastern countries. Since Israel is at the crossroads between Asia, Europe and Africa, the content of our broadcasts will be on the lines of Radio Free Europe and NPR - National Public Radio. We will broadcast in English, Hebrew and Arabic. Most of our broadcasts will be

presented by children, as they represent the next generation, and they will have to live with the decisions we make today. We believe that their voices need to be heard over every other voice. The decision of the Supreme Court last Wednesday which legalised pirate radio stations has to include the 'Voice of Peace', that was the first station to start broadcasting. Therefore we are demanding special attention in the issuing of licences to those concerned."

The stations Website at <www.vop.co.il> confirms that the mediumwave frequency will be the same as in the past - 1539kHz (announced as 1540kHz). The welcome message reads:

We are welcoming the 'Voice of Peace' to the consciousness of the world. Friends of peace. The new Voice of Peace acts as the Israeli airwaves once again. You are welcome to join us. We will tie up at the old Voice of Peace ship and anchor our new vessel. FM transmissions from the VOP will be on 103.9MHz, rather than the 100MHz central dial position used in the past. This is no doubt due to the scarcity of free space on the FM band. In addition to the many stations operating within Israel, the Kotel Mitzvah News Agency claims that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is operating 65 television channels and 19 radio stations within areas under its control, in violation of the Oslo agreements signed with Israel. The News Agency says that according to the agreements signed with Israel, the PA is only permitted to operate 8 radio stations and 6 television channels. The return of the VOP is not the only reaction to the decision to license Autotv-7. Israel Wire reported on 16th March that the following pirate radio station Radio Gal had started regular broadcasting after an initial experimental stage. The station will carry two daily political programmes, and the rest of the time will be mostly Oriental and Mediterranean-style music. Radio Gal has been operating at 98.1MHz FM for over five years. The people behind the station say that if the government allows Autotv-7, it must also allow left-leaning stations. In the mean time it seems that VOP broadcasts will remain from autonomous Palestinian territory. Reason's vessel was not fully prepared yet. The ship, the M/V Vagabond, is moored in a Greek harbour. The common opinion in Israel is that this is a publicity stunt to get a on-air licence for the VOP.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

European Klassik Rock

San January 3rd marked the final broadcast day of pan European satellite radio station European Klassik Rock. Two other stations leaving airtime on EKR's subcarriers, Radio Caroline and black music station Solar FM were forced to close down too. For a number of insiders it was not really a surprise that EKR had to close down: since the start of times mid October 1997 EKR had carried only few commercials. Mid 1998 several well-known air personalities had left the station because they couldn't be paid their wages anymore. A number of experienced but nevertheless enthusiastic presenters kept the station alive together with experienced people like John Lewis, Nigel Harris and Mark Stafford. The latter was the station's music director right from the beginning and presented a number of evening sets since the very start. John Lewis and Nigel Harris both joined the station in the last months of broadcasting. To this addition a few voices which were on the station during its heydays: Dave Cash, Emperor Rosko, Peter Quinn, Keith Lewis and Dave Windsor. EKR started as a very promising station putting out a wide variety of classic rock, covering 4 decades of pop music. The station with studios in Maidstone, Kent wanted to provide a refreshing breath of creative music radio. The playlist featured far over 4000 songs and managing-director Peter Leuter said: "We are seeking to put the music back into radio" referring at all those great classic rock songs hardly to be heard on the radio. And thus EKR's slogan became "Putting the music back into your radio". The station built up a strong following of European listeners. But an enthusiastic listening audience is not enough. Selling commercial airtime is a must to survive and that's the main reason the station was forced to cease broadcasting. The definitive decision to end was announced on Sun Jan. 3rd and it was in the afternoon of Sat Jan. 2nd that the station's people were informed. It was Mark Stafford who presented the final 4 hours on Sun Jan. 2nd 19:00-23:00 CET following Caroline's lead. He presented a very informative final show and also talked to managing-director Peter Leuter. In the show there were several extracts from the EKR archive and the music was carefully selected. During the farewell show, several e-mails and telephone calls were received from all over Europe. Just before 23:00 the Beatles' "The long and winding road" and "The End" both from the Abbey Road album, were played. Then there was a short silence followed by Solar FM's final hour.

EKR's Managing Director Peter Leuter issued a very comprehensive statement but it would go too far to read that out in full. However, if you want to obtain it, contact FRS-Holland via Email or snailmail. The costs: 1 IRC or a /10/01 DM 1.00 stamp

The come-back of Roger 'Twiggy' Day

As already in earlier FRS Goes DX reports as well as in the FRS Newsletter, a new commercial radio station on long wave 279 kHz will start broadcasting from the Isle of Man. The new station will cover the whole of Great Britain. There are three interested candidates eagerly willing to obtain the licence: The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company (IoMIBC) with MusicMann 279, CLT/IFA (RTL) with Indigo 279 & Radio 279, a group headed by Peter Baldwin, former senior man within the British Radio Authority. Baldwin claims that it's just a formality before it will be announced that IoMIBC will be awarded the licence to start broadcasts. Paul Rastling who also played an important

role in the early days of Laser 558 is the IoMIBC key-figure. Provided IoMIBC is the lucky one, it will mean that former offshore jock Roger Day will be appointed programme-controller of the new MusicMann 279. He will not present any shows. In his career he worked for Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio, Radio Caroline, Radio Luxembourg, Radio Norfonia International and a number of British local stations. MusicMann 279 <<http://www.laserwaves.co.uk>>

BBC opts for Internet Radio in new millennium

The BBC has announced that their complete programming output will be accessible on the internet in the year 2005. At the same moment it is announced that the German Service will be probably closed down. In the end, the BBC aims to broadcast in 12 languages. Other future plans include FM reception in every major metropolis, according to Chief Executive Mark Byford. He added that there will be two different English language outputs, one called World Service News (24 hour a day, up-to-date news) and World Service Plus. The latter will include the remaining parts of the current World Service along with quality programming of a more general nature.

February 5th it was exactly 75 years ago that the BBC was the very first radio station in the world introducing a radio time signal. BBC Worldwide: <www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm>

Chris Cary arrested in New Zealand

Chris Cary who did a bunk from Ford open Prison in Sussex last August, was arrested in New Zealand. Cary is better known as 60s disc-jockey 'Scampas Muldoon' who had his first run-in with the authorities after joining Radio Caroline in 1967 and then being arrested for broadcasting on Radio Free London in 1968. Detectives tracked Cary, who was using the assumed name of Chris Cassidy, to a house in Auckland. New Zealand police said he had been using a passport and a house a charge of traveling on a false passport. It was reported that Cary had not yet decided whether to fight extradition.

Listening to Internetradio doubled

The number of Americans listening to Internet radio has been doubled in the second half of 1998. The number increased from 5% to 13%. Edison Media Research interviewed 1350 persons: 41% of all Americans use access to the Internet, in home or at work.

New licences for low-powered stations?

The American FCC is currently seriously looking at the possibilities which could result in so-called microwave stations. Perhaps already this year stations will be allowed to start operations utilizing outputs between 1.5 and 1.900 watts. Goal is to make radio for the local market possible in small areas. Other possibilities include issuing licences to religious organisations, minorities, schools and universities.

AFN and BFBS will continue

Several stations still active and broadcasting from German soil for British and American soldiers will remain broadcasting for the time being. It concerns AFN and BFBS stations which started broadcasting as a result of the emergency of soldiers after World War II. Even when all troops will leave Germany, a number of stations will be kept on air to serve International troops who will return irregularly for exercises. However, one of the main DFBS frequencies, 96.5 MHz, will be soon off air, this frequency will become available for German stations. A tip for jingle-breaks, on the Internet there's an outstanding site full of HFBS jingles! <www.jingles.de/MEB/Jingles/Europa/UK/Jingles.html>

The Album Zone on British cable?

The Album Zone, a daily show with Merlin Network One on SW and satellite, will be perhaps soon on British cable. Former Radio Caroline deejay Johnny Reece who never worked on the high seas but who did go on satellite and RSLs, who set up the Album Zone with a few Caroline colleagues, is currently negotiating with possible backers and cable networks which will distribute the signal. During weekdays the show is aired between 10:00-11:00 on MNO. An additional hour of subchannels in the afternoon, however, this is broadcasted at different times. For more info, try this site: <www.mno.net>

Tony Blackburn

Less than 18 months: Tony Blackburn's Breakfast Show on Capital Radio London was dropped and Tony's radio career was limited to weekends. As a result of the poor listening figures, the Capital management decided to call him back. Since May 1998, Tony is presenting a daily 4-7pm Drive Time show on the Capital Gold. That means the show is broadcasted not only on Capital Gold but also on several other stations in Birmingham, Kent, Sussex or Hampshire. Former Caroline 80s deejay David Andrews is also to be heard via the Capital Group on weekdays between 10am and 1pm.

Alan West RSL

Wednesday March 10th it is announced that former R.N.I. jock Alan West (ex Radio London, Radio 279, Radio City, Radio 390, RNI, Radio Caroline, Voice of Peace) has obtained a RSL to operate a radio station for South London starting at the beginning of the 1999 Christmas Season. Barclays are backing the project. More news in December...

Dutch Radio Day

Saturday March 20th the annual Dutch radio Day will be organised by SMC

and Freeware. Place to be is the Beiaard, Zijlstraat 56, Hoek Gedeelte Oude Gracht in Haarlem. Videos will be showed and editing on about the Scandinavians in offshore stations and a petted history of AFN. Also an unique 60 min. video, filmed aboard the Veronica ship Nordreyer in the 60s and 70s. Some of the former Veronica crewmembers will be interviewed that day. Hans van Velzen, the man who closed down the station in 1974 (de man die haalde als technicus van het laatste uur het programma school), Joost van Groenigen, the engineer, Ruud Dotsch & Juel Geleick will be special guests in March. For the first time since 1974, all equipment which was aboard the Veronica ship Nordreyer, will be on exhibition. All is in working order.

Internet jock (USA)

Internetjock.com is a new company that delivers Custom Voice Tracks (using MP3 technology) to automated radio stations worldwide. Owner Bob Ancheta, veteran radio announcer for 29 years in Portland, got the idea to take advantage of all the cutbacks and consolidation in radio, and provide custom radio tracks with major market voices for a fraction of what you would pay a full time announcer. Stations pay a flat fee for a weekday show and they don't have to pay employee benefits or line charges to receive the tracks. Radio stations can mail or fax the music sheets daily to Internetjock. Voice tracks are recorded and encoded to MP3s and Internetjock FTPs them to its web site for stations to download into their automation. It makes it in almost real time, and they arrive CD quality. Now small and medium markets can have professional announcers on their station, and it sounds like Internetjock is sitting in the studio doing a live. Internetjock does the local weather, contests and music news. Internetjock is currently heard on KTWB, The Twins 98.3 in Bend,

program director, Ron Alvarez at 541/382-5263 or email him at <Alvarez@bendnet.com>. After nine months of testing, Internetjock is ready to take on new clients. Internetjock has many voices available for any format. Internetjock can do production, inserts, and even has a TV weatherman Matt Zaffino from NW News Channel 8, that can do custom weather reports. Internetjock even offers this service free for one week to see if you like it.

<www.internetjock.com> E-mail: <info@internetjock.com>.
<www.thetwines.com>

NBN introduces MP3

NBN, Nottalga Broadcasting Network, specializing in delivering off-air programs (in several formats), announced a few weeks ago that all stations putting on NBN's syndicated shows, have now the option of choosing to receive shows via messenger service (as it always was) or downloading them in the MP3 format via the Internet. MP3, also called MPEG3, has quickly gained an enormous popularity among Internet users and those who are professionally involved in audio. Up all new WAV files were widely spread and used for computer audio purposes but knowing the WAV-MP3 ratio could be as much as 1:12 with a minimum loss of quality, it must be clear MP3s rapidly gaining interest. Downloading syndicated prog is very cost-effective as there are no costs of postage. Besides, damages during transport are excluded and it is much quicker. NBN produces 31 national prog being aired on no less than 1775 USA-based radio stations. Nottalga Broadcasting Network: <www.nbnradio.com>

Introduction DBS receivers: delay

It will take a bit longer before we can listen to satellite radio in our car. A few years ago it was predicted that the year 2000 would see the introduction. June 2000 three satellites will become operational, later that month the first tests will commence. WorldSpace, one of the companies involved, recently announced an agreement was reached with a number of manufacturers. Future so-called DBS receivers will be obtainable for relatively low prices. It can be expected that initial prices will be around 500 Dutch guilders, that's the equivalent of 250 US dollars, 440 German Marks or 160 English pounds. As soon as the sale will increase, prices will automatically drop.

MADE in HOLLAND

December

The MV Nordreyer, former Veronica radio ship, has been lying alongside a quay in Leeuwarden, in the Northern province of Friesland for some two years. There it has been serving as a disco, until financial difficulties forced the backers to stop these activities. Now there is new place for the ship. It will be towed towards various Dutch locations to be the scene of special events. August 1999 it will be 25 years ago Radio Veronica was forced by Dutch government to cease broadcasts from the Nordreyer. In 1998 some 400,000,000 Guilders have been spent on radio commercials. Ten years ago this has been 80,000,000,-. Especially the commercial stations have been increasing their income from advertisements. Radio advertising is quite an attractive medium, regarded the fact the 'average Dutchman' is listening 3 hours a day to radio.

The Rotterdam based commercial station SUN FM has got a terrestrial frequency earlier this year. Especially the station's multi-cultural format has been one of the major arguments to give SUN entrance to the airwaves. Now the shareholders of the station have decided to change the format towards non-stop popmusic. As a result of this policy 34 people have lost their jobs. Several people have suggested SUN has to give back its terrestrial frequency, because of misleading the public.

A major change in format at Radio Noordzee National has been announced. The station will air more current popmusic and less talk. This change is the result of a survey among (potential) listeners. The boost in commercial stations broadcasting on FM has urged the station to re-consider its policy. Radio Noordzee will ban the more 'rural' folk music to its (cable) sister station Radio Holland's Glorie. From the beginning of 1999 onwards Noordzee will be aiming at the audience between 20-40 years of age. A very attractive audience for advertisers.

January

January 1998 Country FM started transmissions on the Rotterdam and The Hague cable systems. Now, one year later, the station can be received in 2 million households throughout the country. The stations is playing a mixture of 'old' and 'new', with an emphasis on the latter category, with artists like De Lange, the Mavericks and LeAnnRimes. Country music and associated things like line dancing are rapidly becoming more and more popular in Holland.

January 15 City FM officially commenced broadcasting a terrestrial frequency from Amsterdam and Haarlem. After some weeks of more prog transmissions now pre-recorded programmes are aired. The stations plays "the best of the 80's and 90's".

Radio 538 will be broadcasting via cable in Belgium from February onwards. At first the Dutch programmes will be relayed, but later on a Flemish edition will be aired. The station will be playing Top40, 'dance' and recent hits. Radio 538 is aiming at the very young 13-19 target group. In this group the station has reached a 32.2% market share in Holland. That means it can call itself 'marketleader'.

Do you remember Delta Radio? This long wave station had plans to erect giant masts somewhere in the middle of the country. After a lot of protests from local inhabitants the council of Apeldoorn didn't give the concession to build these masts. As a result Delta Radio developed plans to build masts in the Northsea. Dutch Government was assisting the station in investigating the legal possibilities. But now it appears the Apeldoorn council has to do its homework all over. A higher court (the 'Raad van State') judged the council hasn't been careful enough. However, experts don't expect the new decision will be a different one. Delta Radio - if it ever will reach the broadcasting status - will be broadcasting pop music towards the British Isles. A kind of Atlantic 252.

Yes, it's yet another radio station! This time it has a quite unfamiliar name: Obibito Radio. Broadcasting non stop music 24 hours a day. But this time quite different from other stations. Obibito Radio is playing mostly new age and world music. The station started February 1st 1998. In the meantime 2.3 million households are connected to the station via their local systems. Despite one year of broadcasting the station doesn't air commercials yet. The station is part of the Obibito holding, which offers relaxation, relaxation and awaking via a lot of activities like courses. The whole enterprise has giant financial troubles. For a lot of people the big question isn't whether the station will get broke but when?

MARCH

According to State Secretary De Vries of Transport & Public Works, the Dutch government cannot prevent the building of two giant antennamasts in the Northsea some 35 kilometres off the Zealand coast. He said hopes have been aroused. New conditions could result in insurance claims. Antennas will be built outside the 12 mile limiting the government's voice in this matter. New laws must give the government more power when it comes to decisions for outside the 12 mile limit.

More information about Dutch radio: <www.home.wsl.nl-laters>

Sources : Hans Knot/ FRW, TTS Mediagroep, SRS-News, MediaVide, Newstide, Radio Netherlands World Service, FRSH, Mike Brand.

FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS: a wide range of recordings from radiostations around the world. Offshore, landbased pirate radio stations, satellite, documentaries, jingles and much, more more. For more info write to FRS Sales Prod., P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands.